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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 185703

16
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL:ML
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S/S-JHOGANSON
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R 062009Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T STATE 185703

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT USDEL SECRETARY IN HELSINKI SECTO 8088
ACTION ATHENS SECSTATE 31 JUL

QUOTE

S E C R E T SECTO 8088

EXDIS

FROM HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI GR US MARR
SUBJECT: AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY

REF:ATHENS 5781

1. FOR AMBASSADOR. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL BITSIOS HAD
BEEN INFORMED BY AVEROFF OF YOUR DEMARCHE IN ATHENS.
BITSIOS GAVE SOME OF THE BACKGROUND SAYING THAT IN THEIR
JUDGEMENT THE AMMUNITION HAD BEEN TAKEN DURING THE TIME
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THE JUNTA WAS STILL IN POWER. HE SAID THAT THE GREEK

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GOVERNMENT WOULD MUCH PREFER TO PAY FOR THE MISSING AMMUNITION RATHER THAN RETURN IT BECAUSE IT WAS IN GREAT NEED AND SOME AMMUNITION SIMILAR TO THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN ORDERED BY THE GREEKS BUT WOULD TAKE SOMETIME TO DELIVER. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE CASE AND FURTHER FOUND IT RATHER INCREDIBLE THAT SUCH A LONG PERIOD OF TIME WENT BY BEFORE WE DISCOVERED THAT THE AMMUNITION WAS MISSING. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND THEREFORE THE GREEKS DID NOT HAVE TO TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY. HE SAID THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO TURN THE AMMUNITION OVER TO THE GREEKS SINCE IT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY NOT APPEARED IN ANY OF OUR PROGRAMMED DOCUMENTS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SCEPTICISM ABOUT ESTABLISHING A PRINCIPLE WHERE ANYONE COULD TAKE THINGS FROM US AND THEN WE SELL THEM TO THEM BUT IN ANY CASE HE PROMISED TO HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE QUESTION WHEN HE RETURNED.

2. FOR THE DEPARTMENT. YOU SHOULD PREPARE A MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY GIVING THE FULL BACKGROUND ON THIS CASE INCLUDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DISCOVERY THAT THE PROBLEM EXISTED. YOU SHOULD ALSO PUT TO THE SECRETARY THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM AND THEIR PROS AND CONS IN TERMS OF PRECEDENT AND EFFECTS ON RELATIONS WITH GREECE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF AVEROFF'S REACTION.
KISSINGER
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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